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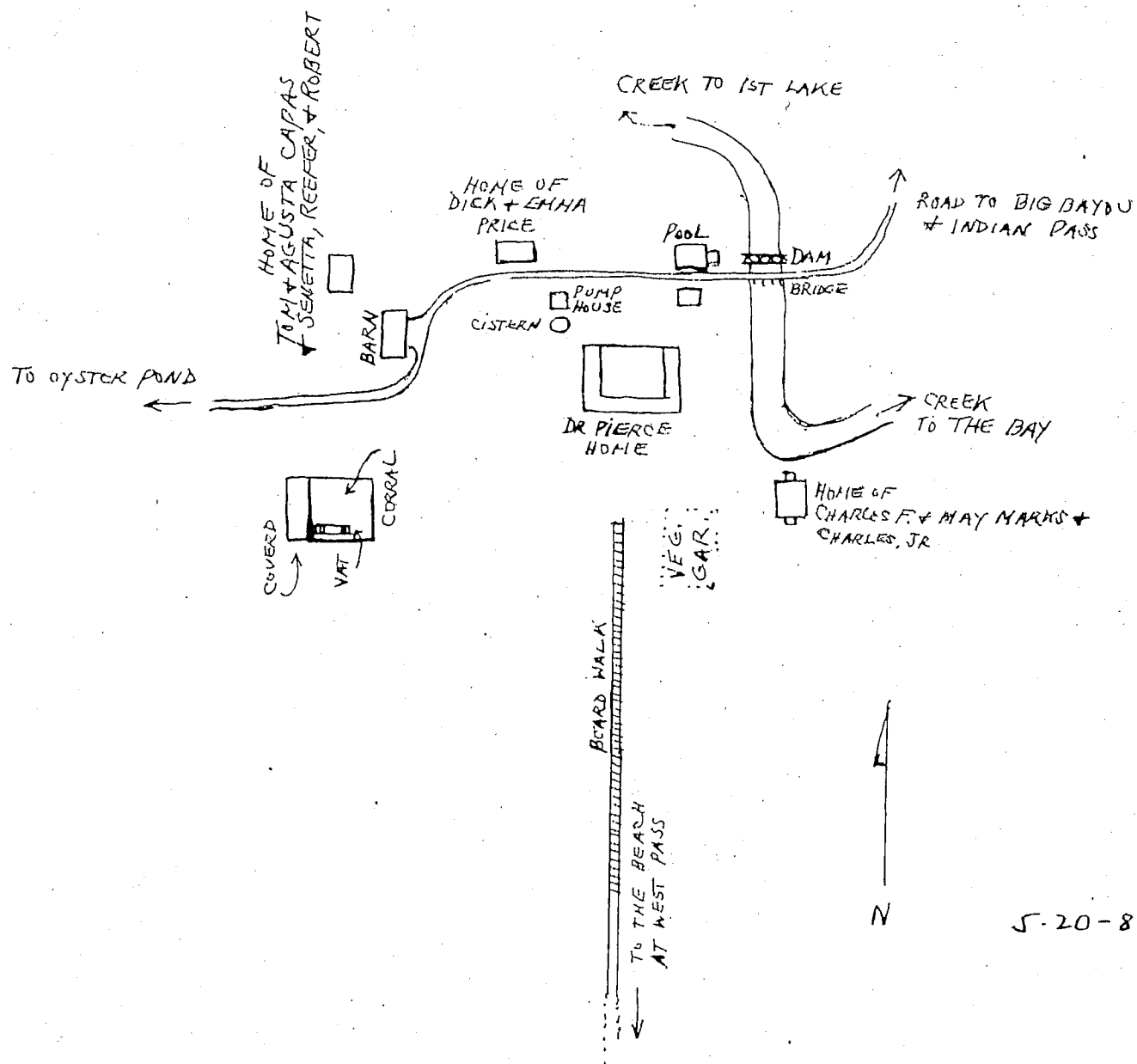
Mr. Martin Perry
St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 447
Apalachicola, Fla 32320

Dear Mr. Perry:

Thank you for the recent opportunity you gave my wife and me to tour St. Vincent Island. We enjoyed the day very much, and it was nice to be with you, Bob, and Eddie Nesmith. We thought the tour was very interestingly done. There certainly has been a lot of change since 1924. The stands of pine have been eliminated, during the war years of the 1940's; and the long straight well graded roads used by the logging companies are quite different from the winding, twisting, ungraded rut roads we had then. It all appeared wilder then for hardly ever could one see over 100 feet of road at a time. The lakes were absolutely clear in 1924, and deep water came right up to the shores of the lakes and creeks. Thus the saw grass stayed on the banks and the lakes remained clear of encroaching grass. You may recall we discussed during my visit of April 22 that the depletion of the forest created erosion problems, which in turn created droughts and flooding that upset the balance. As soil moved into the lakes and filled them in, grass crept in, too. Muddiness of the water would naturally result from this; whereas when I lived there there was virtually no mud, only clean sand and grasses on the bottoms.

The settlement at West Pass has completely changed. Of course, the Dr. Pierce home remains, together with the location of the house I lived in and the approximate location of the dam and pool enabled me to get a fix as to approximate locations of other buildings. I am enclosing a "map" I drew of the area as I recall it. Of course, I could not get all of this on the map you sent to me as the whole area is perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the map. However, I hope this drawing may be indicative of how the area looked at that time. The present trees and palms certainly did not help as I suppose they were not there at all (or very small) 57 years ago. I recall the cistern and pump house NW of Dr. Pierce's house, but it is possible the concrete foundation near the pool could have been the pump house. I recall a separate house for the Delco lighting system, but can't place both of them for sure. There was a barn west of Dr. Pierce where feed for the horses, saddles, and various equipment was stored, and no doubt that is where we kept the Model T Ford. I do not recall that long low shed north of Dr. Pierce; perhaps the Loomis brothers built it, or IF it were there I have forgotten it. There were 3 horses in the corral named Dolly, Grace, and Mary. Tom Capas' name may be Capers or something else, but if it is ever desirable to know, his family lived in Apalachicola in a house on the N. side of 10th Avenue, $1\frac{1}{2}$ blocks west of Avenue E. Augusta worked for my aunt, Mrs. John Marshall, until recent years. The area north of the pool was thick jungle-like woods right to the creek's edge, with no grass between the dam and 1st Lake that I can recall, both sides of the creek were thickly wooded. There was saw grass below the dam, but not as much as now. The telephone system terminal was in our house at the bend of the creek. The board walk was 36" wide down through the trees almost to the water--well out into the dunes.





DR. PIERCE HOME IN 1924
ST. VINCENT ISLAND (FLA)

As recalled by Charles F. Marks, Jr.